



Governing the Energy Transition: Local Action, International Ambition

Knowledge Exchange Workshop Third Event of the Platform on International Energy Governance

Friday 24 April 2020

Energy Charter Secretariat, 46 Boulevard de la Woluwe 1200, Brussels, Belgium

Workshop supported by King's College London's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account

The invite-only workshop will identify how international legal regimes frame and influence regional, national and local energy transitions. Jointly organised by the Climate Law and Governance Centre at King's College London and the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels, the event will provide a forum to facilitate knowledge exchange between academics and policymakers in order to make sense of on-going legal changes, permit the flow of new ideas and integrate academic expertise into current policy thinking.

Context: Radically new energy policies are needed to decarbonize our economies to mitigate climate change in line with the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. The energy sector is crucial in this endeavour, energy production and consumption accounting for two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions. While energy governance has traditionally been a technocratic field, recent international developments, such as the adoption of a stand-alone sustainable development goal on energy and the design of nationally determined contributions anticipating significant changes in the energy sector to implement the Paris Agreement have opened domestic energy policies to increased scrutiny. Global stakeholders, including international and regional organisations as well as civil society, are paying significant attention to how national energy policies are designed. In this context, international legal instruments can either facilitate or challenge the adoption of climate-friendly policies. For instance, while Sustainable Development Goal 7 is generally considered to offer a road map for a global transition to renewable energies, investment treaties have been widely criticised for being inadequate in a context of climate emergency and for failing to support the move to decarbonised energy systems.

The workshop will provide a forum to address the impacts of international energy regimes on regional, national and local transitions. It will be held at a time of unprecedented legal change: the Energy Charter Treaty adopted in November 2019 a negotiation timeline for its modernisation (which includes as some of the policy options the alignment with the imperatives of the energy transition) while the EU Green New Deal that relies on a set of policy and legal measures to deeply transform the European society and economy was presented in December 2019. In addition, countries beyond the traditional Eurasia constituency, are considering acceding to the Energy Charter Treaty.

Questions: The workshop will facilitate knowledge exchange in relation to two sets of questions:

- **Lessons learnt:** How have international energy initiatives influenced the governance of the energy transition at national and local levels so far? Under which conditions can international energy initiatives improve the governance of the energy transition at national and local levels? To which extent have local specificities been accounted for? Is it possible to identify best practices?
- **Preparing for change:** What are the risks and opportunities of multi-level governance? In a context in which climate action is becoming more localised and international law more deformed, is international energy law still relevant? Conversely, what roles do local actors play in the making and implementation of international energy law? What are the consequences of multi-level governance for transparency, democratisation and accountability? How can the legitimacy of multi-level actions be best ensured?

Participants: The workshop will comprise approximately 25 participants with legal expertise in energy and climate law in the private, public, and third sectors. Practitioners will include representatives of international and regional organisations, European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, law firms and NGOs working in the energy sector. Academics will include scholars affiliated with the [Platform on International Energy Governance](#), a consortium of leading universities and research centres active in the field of international energy law and policy.

Format: The workshop has been specifically designed to foster knowledge exchange between academia and policymakers. We warmly invite you to attend the event either as a speaker or as an engaged listener:

- **Joining as a speaker:** each academic speaker will be matched with a legal practitioner or policy-maker. We ask that the duo coordinates before the event to prepare their comments and presents together at the workshop. If you would like to act as a speaker, please let us know, briefly indicating in your email the directions that you would like your talk to take. We will then try to 'match' you with a policymaker with relevant and complementary expertise.
- **Joining as an engaged listener:** a limited number of places are available for engaged listeners, who will participate in the workshop as audience members and commentators.

Travel costs: King's College London will make 5000 GBP funding available to cover a networking dinner and reasonable transport and accommodation costs for speakers and engaged listeners. Please let us know if you need financial assistance. Energy Charter Secretariat will kindly offer a light lunch and provide a 30 people meeting room located within the Secretariat.

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